

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 15, 2005.
Hon. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER HASTERT: I respectfully re-
quest that you permit me to vacate my seat
on the House Science Committee as soon as
possible. I am hopeful that I would be able to
retain my seniority position on this com-
mittee should I seek to return in a future
Congress. I have greatly enjoyed my service
on the House Science Committee.

Thank you for your kind consideration of
this request.

Sincerely,

ZOE LOFGREN,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr.
LATOURETTE). Without objection, the
resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CER- TAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, by di-
rection of the Democratic Caucus, I
offer a privileged resolution (H. Res.
111) and ask for its immediate consider-
ation.

The Clerk read the resolution, as fol-
lows:

H. RES. 111

Resolved, That the following named Mem-
bers be and are hereby elected to the fol-
lowing standing committees of the House of
Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION.—
Ms. Zoe Lofgren of California.

(2) COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS.—Ms.
Moore of Wisconsin.

Mr. MENENDEZ (during the read-
ing.) Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous
consent that the resolution be consid-
ered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there
objection to the request of the gen-
tleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on
the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursu-
ant to the provisions of clause 8 of rule
XX, the Chair announces that he will
postpone further proceedings today on
each motion to suspend the rules on
which a recorded vote or the yeas and
nays are ordered, or on which the vote
is objected to under clause 6 of rule
XX.

Such record votes, if postponed, will
be taken on tomorrow.

RECOGNIZING THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE RECOVERY AND ACCOUNTING FOR AMERICANS WHO ARE PRIS- ONERS OF WAR OR MISSING

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speak-
er, I move to suspend the rules and
pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 18)

recognizing the historic commitment
of the United States to the recovery of
and full accounting for Americans who
are prisoners of war or in a missing
status.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 18

Whereas the surrender during World War II
on the Bataan Peninsula, in the Philippines,
in April 1942 led to the capture of more than
75,000 American and Filipino military pris-
oners of war;

Whereas American, Filipino, and Allied
prisoners of war endured the 65-mile Bataan
Death March through the jungles of the Phil-
ippines and were subjected to brutal abuse
from which many hundreds of Americans and
many thousands of Filipinos died;

Whereas thousands more American and
Filipino civilians were interned across the
region;

Whereas General Douglas MacArthur, the
Allied commander for the Southwest Pacific
area, including the Philippine Islands, com-
mitted forces under his command to make
every effort, as quickly as possible, to lib-
erate prisoner of war camps and internment
camps as Allied forces began retaking terri-
tory;

Whereas in the fulfillment of that commit-
ment, United States Army units, together
with various Filipino guerrilla groups, suc-
cessfully conducted several operations that
liberated thousands of innocent civilians,
prisoners of war, and Filipino citizens;

Whereas in February 1945, elements of the
11th Airborne Division, particularly the
511th Parachute Infantry Regiment of that
division, and the 672nd Amphibious Tractor
Battalion conducted a particularly brave and
daring mission behind enemy lines to rescue
over 2,000 people at Los Banos internment
camp; and

Whereas the United States has an historic
commitment to the recovery of and full ac-
counting for Americans who are prisoners of
war or in a missing status: Now, therefore,
be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Rep-
resentatives of the United States of America in
Congress assembled*, That Congress—

(1) recognizes the rescue missions carried
out by units of the United States Army, in-
cluding the 11th Airborne Division, 60 years
ago in the Philippines during World War II as
sterling examples of that commitment; and

(2) recognizes the bravery and courage of
the soldiers and the Filipino guerrillas who
participated in those rescue missions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursu-
ant to the rule, the gentleman from Ar-
izona (Mr. FRANKS) and the gentleman
from North Carolina (Mr.
BUTTERFIELD) each will control 20 min-
utes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman
from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS).

□ 1400

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speak-
er, I ask unanimous consent that all
Members may have 5 legislative days
within which to revise and extend their
remarks on H.J. Res. 18, the legislation
under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr.
LATOURETTE). Is there objection to the
request of the gentleman from Ari-
zona?

There was no objection.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speak-
er, I yield myself such time as I may
consume.

When the Philippines fell in April of
1942, more than 75,000 American and
Filipino servicemen and countless civ-
ilians became prisoners of war. This
number was decimated during the bru-
tal Bataan Death March, which saw the
death of over 16,000 POWs. Many sol-
diers survived the march, only to find
themselves facing murderous treat-
ment in prisoner-of-war camps scat-
tered throughout the island.

When General MacArthur began his
campaign to retake the Philippines in
1945, he made it a priority to liberate
soldiers and civilians who were in-
terned in these camps. This commit-
ment was particularly important, since
it was widely believed that captives
would be killed by their retreating cap-
tors if measures were not undertaken
to liberate them in advance of the
main campaign.

General MacArthur's commitment to
the civilian internees and prisoners of
war on the island manifested itself in a
particularly heroic way in the Allied
raid on the prison camp at Los Banos.
It was here that Filipino guerrilla
forces and the men of the 511th para-
chute infantry regiment of the 11th
Airborne division worked in concert to
organize a multipronged assault with
elements attacking from land, air and
sea to liberate the prisoners of the
camp.

The Allied forces took great risks to
free their fellow soldiers and civilians
who had fallen behind enemy lines.
These truly heroic acts serve not only
as examples of the humanitarian com-
passion of American servicemen and
-women but also as an example of our
Nation's longstanding commitment to
leave no fellow soldier, living or dead,
in enemy hands.

Mr. Speaker, as we have military per-
sonnel spread throughout the world
today, many of whom are daily risking
capture and torture at the hands of
brutal terrorists, it is more important
now than ever to recognize and honor
the heroism and willing sacrifice of
those soldiers who risked their own
safety not to take a strategic objec-
tive, but simply to bring a comrade
home.

Our soldiers, marines, airmen and
sailors must be able to take a small
measure of comfort that whatever hap-
pens to them in battle, that this Na-
tion will always have the will and the
resolve to find and repatriate all of
those who were lost while on duty.

Mr. Speaker, evil has aggressively
manifested itself in many forms
throughout human history, and for the
last 200 years, whether fighting totali-
tarian evil of monarchical, fascist or fa-
natical roots, American servicemen
have made a habit of putting them-
selves squarely in evil's way. They
have done so, secure in the knowledge
that if they fall into the hands of the
enemy, they will not be forgotten. In-
deed, every effort possible will be un-
dertaken to bring them home.

Mr. Speaker, this is the 60th anniver-
sary of the liberation of over 2,000 pris-
oners from the camp at Los Banos, and